

already passed the House will reduce Federal revenues by \$250 billion. Without that tax cut for the wealthy there would be virtually no need to cut Medicare in order to achieve a balanced budget under their plan. The Senate Budget Resolution reserves \$170 billion for tax cuts. Without that allocation the Medicare cuts could be reduced by two-thirds without any increase in the deficit.

The arguments used to justify deep cuts in Medicare cannot pass the truth-in-labeling test. They will not fool the American people. As the ceremonies on V-E Day earlier this week commemorating the end of World War II in Europe reminded us, today's senior citizens have stood by America in war and peace and America must stand by them now. The senior citizens of today are the veterans of the Army, the Navy, the Air Force, the Marines, and the hard-working men and women on the home front. They pulled us through that terrible war. We cannot pull the rug out from under them on Medicare now.

I urge the Senate to reject these unwise Republican proposals.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I may proceed as if in morning business for no more than 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE BUDGET

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, we have all been receiving phone calls and getting letters about the proposed budget that is being recommended now or being talked about and marked up in the respective committees in the Senate and House of Representatives. We have had time to talk to the chairmen of those committees and get copies of the proposal that they have put forth. In other words, the great debate has started on this year's budget.

I think we have to applaud the chairman of each committee because they have come forward with very daring proposals. I applaud the chairmen, especially Senator DOMENICI of the Senate Budget Committee. When you look at our deficit spending we see, yes, that the deficit did become lower last year. It went down. But it now continues to climb. The deficit this year alone stands at \$175 billion, and for a while. But, nonetheless, it is growing at the outrageous rate of \$482 million a day. That sounds like a lot of money to me.

So, consequently, it is time for this body and this Government to do something responsible and to deal very frankly with the budget, to be up front about it, and to try to address some of the problems that we have because I think most Americans are wanting something done to rein it in.

It is absolutely necessary if we are to continue the economic viability and the leadership in this world for our Nation. We cannot continue to stand by and conduct business as usual, and in so doing allow the national debt to increase by \$1 trillion every Presidential term.

So the time has come for bold initiatives to look at getting spending under control, and Senator DOMENICI's budget right now does exactly that.

The chairman of the Budget Committee slows the annual growth of most lines. Every line in that budget, with the exception of a few, grow every year. We have heard a lot of attention brought to the Medicare line, growing 10 to 11 percent every year. Now we want to slow that growth because already the trustees of that trust fund have told us that by the year 2002 it will be broke and they will pay no bills at all.

Also it transforms Medicaid into block grant funds to the States where they will have the responsibility to do something responsible to get spending under control.

It further calls for the establishment of a bipartisan congressional committee to represent policy changes needed to maintain the short-term solvency of the Medicare system. Such measures would generate the savings needed to put the system on a financially sound footing for the next 7 years while we work together to develop a long-term solution for Medicare solvency gap. There can be no getting around the fact that, if we continue on the path that we are presently on, Medicare will lapse into bankruptcy within 7 years and then it will be too late, or too expensive, to solve the problem.

The chairman's budget proposes the elimination of spending for the National Biological Survey. I have long said that we had the resources within the organizations of the Fish and Wildlife, the Park Service, or in the Department of the Interior to do that without creating another bureau or the money that goes with it. We also want our policy decisions based on sound science and we start dealing with the biological makeup of this country or this world. And I think we can do it without the National Biological Survey.

The chairman's budget proposes the reduction in the Agricultural Research Service by 10 percent which would reduce the total outlays in this program by \$1 million.

It is true that we all will not agree with this budget. This is one area where I do not agree. This is one area where we cannot pull back on any investment in the research and develop-

ment in agriculture. I will stand on this floor and maintain until I can draw my last breath that the second thing everybody who lives in this Nation does every morning is eat. I do not know what the first thing is that they do. They have a lot of options there. But I know the second thing they do is eat.

We still have an obligation to feed this Nation and this society.

So when it comes time to talking about budgets, basically that is what a balanced budget amendment would have done; make us talk about the most important things and to set our priorities where we think those important things are.

We have to look to the necessities of life, not to the frills but the necessities of life and also the individual responsibility that each one of us has at just being a citizen of this great country.

You might be surprised to know that for the first time in the history of agriculture our yields in wheat are going down, because we are just not getting enough money for research, plant breeding, developing those strains of wheat that are disease resistant because that is a constant thing; it goes on all the time. And so we must, if we are going to feed this Nation—and right now, 1 farmer feeds 145 other people. Also, one of our greatest exports is agriculture. In fact, it has been in the black forever. We have to continue with our ability to produce foodstuffs, food and fiber for this society.

The chairman of the Budget Committee also proposed the privatization of the PMA's, the power marketing administrations. They are making money for the Treasury. They also generate and produce power for our REA's. In rural America, we would not have electricity yet if it was not for REA's. My father served on an REA board. I have often said if it was not for REA on the farms, we would be watching television by candlelight.

We have to be very cautious in the way we set our priorities in this budget. So consequently I think we have to take a very hard look at long-term revenue implications that would happen, that is, if WAPA, western area power marketing, and the Southwest and the Southeast are moved into private hands.

And this is nothing new. We will argue about different parts of the budget. Where we set our priorities is what is really important for this Nation and the people who live in it. That is what this budget will do. But it will be a responsible budget that I am sure, after America looks at it, we will have the confidence in its integrity to do what we have to do, and that is to balance the budget by the year 2002.

I do not think there is anything that will come before this body that will be any more important than the issue of this budget and the roadmap, the blueprint to get us where we want to be as